

REMARKS

Claims 5-14 are pending. Claim 5 is amended and claims 1-4 canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. The amendments to claim 5 are to correct informalities and have no bearing on patentability.

In paragraph 2, on page 2 of the Office Action, claim 4 was objected to because of dependency. Claim 4 has been canceled rendering the objection moot.

In paragraph 4, on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 5-8, 10 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) being anticipated by Ishibe, U.S. Patent No. 6,317,244. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention of claim 5 calls for, among other features, a deflector that deflects the laser beam emitted from each of the plurality of laser light sources; a slit member disposed on a position optically equal to a scanned position of the photosensitive member; and a third converging unit between the slit member and the detector that converges, at least in the sub-scanning direction, the laser beam converged by the first converging unit, on the detector, wherein a lateral magnification in the sub-scanning direction in an optical path from the slit member to the detector is less than one.

Applicant's claim 8 calls for, among other features, a deflector that deflects the plurality of laser beams in a scanning direction; a photosensitive member onto which the plurality of laser beams are converged by the second converging unit; a detector that receives the deflected plurality of laser beams converged at least in the scanning direction by the second converging unit; and a third converging unit that converges the plurality of laser beams at least in the sub-scanning direction, wherein a width of the converged plurality of laser beams in the sub-scanning direction on the detector is less than a width of the plurality of laser beams in the sub-scanning direction on the photosensitive member.

Ishibe does not disclose such combinations of features. In particular, although the Office Action alleges that Ishibe teaches a lateral magnification in the sub-scanning direction in an optical path from the slit to the detector is less than one, there is no such discussion in Ishibe. In fact, Applicant's claim 6 goes on to define how the lateral magnification is represented by defining $L2/L1$, where $L1$ is a distance from the slit member to the third converging unit and $L2$ is a distance from the third converging unit to the detector.

The Office Action alleges that Ishibe discloses such in Fig. 9. One can clearly see from Fig. 9, or Fig. 12, of Ishibe that the distance between elements 9, 10, that is from the slit 9 to the BD lens 10 is greatly smaller than the distance from the BD lens 10 to the detecting means 11. Thus, $L1$ is considerably smaller than $L2$ in Ishibe when compared to Applicant's definition. If one then expresses the relationship as the equation $L2/L1$, then it is obvious, since $L2$ is greater than $L1$, that the value will be greater than one.

Further, Ishibe says nothing about the relationship of the elements. The elements are defined and discussed in col. 7, lines 42-49 and 61-67. Nowhere does Ishibe disclose the relationship claimed in claim 5 and detailed in claim 6. As Ishibe does not literally disclose these features, it cannot anticipate features and a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is inappropriate. Further, because Ishibe does not anticipate claim 5, it cannot anticipate claim 7 depending therefrom.

As to claim 8, Ishibe says nothing about a width of the converged plurality of laser beams in the sub-scanning direction on the detector is less than a width of the plurality of laser beams in the sub-scanning direction on the photosensitive member as found in claim 8. Ishibe's Fig. 12 deals with multiple beam lasers and only discusses widths which are essentially the scanning directions and those are set by the BD mirror 8. It says nothing about the relationship other than the two light emitting sections are arranged with a predetermined angle of θ according to resolution as described earlier, referring to Fig. 7, so that they are

separated from each other along the main scanning direction (col. 9, lines 35-40). Fig. 7, which is referred to, as discussed in the related background at col. 3, lines 32-55, indicates that the spots must be separated in the sub-scanning direction by a prescribed distance and that such may require the use of an interlay scanning system. Nowhere does Ishibe call for or describe, in any manner, the result of the actions of the third converging unit and it clearly does not describe the subject matter of claim 10 which provides details of the various distances. Thus, as Ishibe does not literally disclose the claimed invention, it cannot anticipate the invention. Therefore, it is respectfully requested the rejection to claim 8, and claims 10 and 12-14 depending therefrom, be withdrawn.

In paragraph 6, on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishibe in view of Ito et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,239,828 (Ito). The rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1 and 3.

In paragraph 7, on page 6 of the Office Action, claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishibe in view of Ito and further in view of Hama, U.S. Patent No. 5,621,562. The rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 2.

In paragraph 8, on page 7 of the Office Action, claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ishibe in view of Ito and further in view of Houki, U.S. Patent No. 4,847,492. The rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 4.

In paragraph 9, on page 7 of the Office Action, claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishibe in view of Hama and in paragraph 10, on page 8 of the Office Action, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ishibe in view of Houki. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

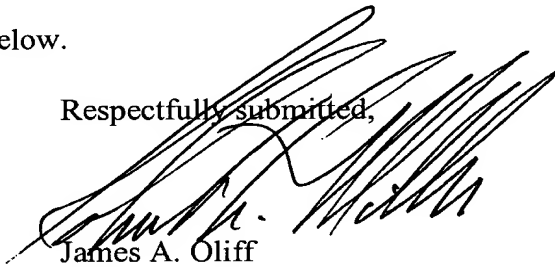
As discussed above, Ishibe does not suggest the subject matter of claim 8. Further, the applied references do not overcome the deficiency of Ishibe with respect to claim 8 and

therefore cannot suggest the subject matter of claims 9 or 11. Therefore it is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 5-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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